

Intern – The Social Protection Initiative

Dvara Research

Organisation Profile

Dvara Research¹, formerly IFMR Finance Foundation, is a not-for-profit company promoted by Dvara Trust. We are focused on the mission of ensuring that every individual and every enterprise has complete access to financial services. Our mission is motivated by a strong belief in the deeply transformative power of finance in unlocking the potential of low-income households and enterprises and for this, we work towards the development of a well-functioning and resilient financial system. Our vision of the future of finance is one in which innovation helps people deal with the increasing levels of complexities in their own lives². We believe that a good financial system, capable of such innovation, is characterised by three pillars -- high-quality origination, risk transmission and risk aggregation.³ Dvara's overarching strategy is to bridge evidence gaps with rigorous research, generate policy-relevant insights and bring together constructive coalitions to deliver this vision.

Since 2008, when Dvara was founded, we have made several contributions to the Indian financial system, specifically in the development of high-quality origination in India through research into new business models for financial inclusion, and by assessing the impact of various financial products. Dvara has participated in several policy-making platforms such as the Reserve Bank of India's Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low-Income Households (CCFS), serving as the technical secretariat to the committee⁴. Dvara has also worked with the Government of India's High Power Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Services, and the Committee to Review Implementation of Informal Sector Pension. Dvara has been closely involved in the evolution of the pension product for informal sector workers (NPS-Swavalamban) and advises the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India (PFRDA) on the same, besides providing inputs to the RBI Household Finance Committee, the RBI Committee on Medium Term Path on Financial Inclusion, and most recently the Committee of Experts on a Data Protection Framework for India, of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The Social Protection Initiative

The Social Protection Initiative at Dvara Research strives to deliver a comprehensive social security framework for India. We aim to achieve an evidence-based understanding of what entails complete social security in India keeping in mind its unique demographic shifts and social realities. Through our work, we also aim to identify and advocate for the role, scope and pathways for the state in delivering a comprehensive social safety net for every citizen and resident. To this end, we envision the construction of an efficient implementation architecture for it that guarantees every individual and household complete access to social security.

1 <https://dvara.com/research>

2 <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124581691732345881.html>

3 A more detailed discussion of these themes is at: <https://www.dvara.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Financial-systems-design-conference-2010-2011.pdf>

4 Recommendations of the Committee that have been accepted by the RBI can be found at <http://foundation.ifmr.co.in/cfs/tracking-financial-inclusion-deepening-in-india/>

About the position: Intern, The Social Protection Initiative

Duration: 1-3 Months

Location: Chennai, India

This position reports to Head - Social Protection Initiative and is expected to support her/him in meeting the primary research objectives and assisting in managing the execution of the project.

Responsibilities of the Intern

- **Writing and Presenting:**
 - Preparing policy briefs for internal and external audience
 - Authoring research papers, white papers, blog posts and other forms of content on various themes of interest to Dvara.
- **Knowledge Management:**
 - Keeping oneself and the team updated on latest developments of interest to the team, and to debate out issues to improve outcomes for oneself and for the team.

Skills

- **Constructive Problem-Solving Skills:** Sound analytical and critical thinking skills, with the ability to analyse challenging issues from first principles and develop solutions.
- **Integrity and Honesty:** Exhibits a high degree of integrity and honesty in one's dealings. Contributes to the team's performance and considers it as important as one's own performance.
- **Communication:** Ability to communicate (both orally and in the written format) analysis with clarity, precision, and thoroughness, and be able to adapt different writing styles based on the intended outcome and audience
- **Inclined Towards Welfare-Oriented Policy Advocacy:** A passion for the use of regulation and policy as a lever to obtain welfare outcomes through financial services.
- **Highly Driven:** A high degree of self-motivation to work in an unstructured environment and an innate flair for finding constructive solutions to problems while working in team settings.
- **Independent and Eager to Learn:** An ability to think independently about issues, and to critique deliberations in order to strengthen articulation of the initiative's position; an openness and eagerness to learn new concepts and understand issues through the eyes of multiple stakeholders.

Technical Qualifications

- Master's degree in Economics, Finance, Public Policy or allied disciplines.
- Experience with working in research projects and in teams.

This position is based in Chennai. Remuneration will be competitive and commensurate with experience.

We are an equal opportunity employer and value diversity in our team. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, disability status, ethnicity, gender, marital status or religion.

To apply for this position please send us your latest CV, a cover letter, the names of 1 reference along with a one-minute video of yourself detailing your interest in this position to jobs.research@dvara.com